

DOCKET NO.: VTN629NP

PATENT

Application No.: 10/681,974

Office Action Summary Dated: May 15, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)
13. (canceled)
14. (canceled)
15. (canceled)
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)
18. (new) An online method of supplying contact lenses to a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

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receiving into an online system an indication of an authorized reseller;

receiving into the online system an indication of a rule to be applied for calculations of a suggested quantity of contact lenses;

receiving into the online system from the authorized reseller an indication of a price to charge a consumer for a specific quantity of a particular contact lens;

receiving into the online system an indication of an oculist associated with the authorized reseller;

receiving into the online system an indication of a prescription for the patient, associated with the consumer, to receive the particular contact lens, wherein the prescription is authorized by the oculist associated with the authorized reseller and comprises a lens brand, lens power, a lens diameter and a prescription date;

automatically calculating a suggested quantity of contact lenses based upon the lens brand, the prescription date and the rule to be applied to calculations for a suggested quantity of contact lenses;

receiving into the online system an indication of an order from the consumer for the patient to receive a specific quantity of the particular contact lens;

ascertaining that the specific quantity ordered does not exceed the automatically calculated quantity of contact lenses;

charging the consumer for the order based upon the price to charge for a specific quantity of a particular contact lens; and

generating delivery instructions to ship the particular contact lenses directly to the patient.

19. (new) The method of claim 1, additionally comprises the steps of:

receiving into the online system an indication of a default prescription duration associated with the authorized reseller;

presenting the default prescription period to the authorized reseller for the prescription and receiving an indication of whether the authorized reseller accepts or modifies the default prescription period.

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20. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the prescription date comprises a date the prescription expires and method additionally comprises the steps of:
 - determining how many days remain until the date the prescription expires;
 - determine how many days the prescribed lens is designed to be worn; and
 - calculating a maximum quantity of lenses that can be ordered, based upon the number of days that remain until the date the prescription expires and the number of days the prescribed lens is designed to be worn.
21. (new) The method of claim 3, additionally comprising the steps of:
 - receiving an indication of a rounding rule to be applied when determining a maximum quantity of lenses that can be included in an order; and
 - rounding out the maximum quantity of lenses that can be ordered according to the rounding rule.
22. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the method additionally comprises the steps of:
 - receiving into the online system an order date for the order from the consumer;
 - receiving into the online system an indication of special pricing available for one or more products and an indication of a time period for which the discount will apply;
 - determining if the one or more products comprise the particular contact lens ordered;
 - determining if the order date is within the time period for which the special pricing is available; and
 - charging the special pricing for the contact lenses ordered.
23. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the method additionally comprises the steps of:
 - receiving into the online system an indication of the identification of a patient;

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receiving into the online system an indication of the identification of an authorized reseller; and

generating a notification to the authorized reseller that the patient is included on a list comprising patients awaiting contact lens prescription fulfillment.

24. (new) The method of claim 6 additionally comprising the step of generating an automated notification to the consumer indicating that a prescription for contact lenses for the patient has been entered.
25. (new) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the steps of:
transmitting to the consumer an indication of the suggested quantity of contact lenses and the variables used to calculate the suggested quantity; and
receiving into the online system an indication from the consumer of an ordered quantity which is equal to the suggested quantity.
26. (new) The method of claim 6 additionally comprising the step of calculating a schedule indicating when ordered contact lenses will be worn and when they will be discarded.
27. (new) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the steps of:
storing in the online system a record of all prescriptions received that are associated with a specific consumer; and
presenting a report indicating two or more of the prescriptions received that are associated with the specific consumer.

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28. (new) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of processing payment for the order through a third party clearing house.

29. (new) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the steps of:
transmitting to the consumer a suggested order; and
receiving into the online system an indication of an edit to the suggested order.

30. (new) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the steps of:
calculating how long a supply of contact lenses shipped to a patient should last; and
automatically generating a reminder email to the consumer indicating that the patient's supply of contact lenses may be getting low.

31. (new) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the steps of:
calculating a date that a prescription for the patient will expire; and
automatically generating an email message to the consumer indicating that the prescription will expire on the calculated date.

32. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein the consumer and the patient are the same person.